



The Spiritual Armor

Part 1: The Helmet of Salvation

In looking at the resources that God provides for living a quality of life that supersedes anything that the world can offer (Ps. 16:11; John 10:10b), we are going to examine the spiritual armor next. We cannot escape living in a world that is under the control of the evil one and being bombarded with its temptations and allurements virtually every day (John 14:30; Eph. 2:2; 1 John 2:16). In addition, Satan himself prowls around, jealously trying to keep his influence in our lives and to destroy our ability to enjoy the supernatural enhancements that God makes possible for us through His indwelling Holy Spirit (1 Peter 5:8).

As a loving Father, God would not leave us without a means of effectively protecting ourselves against these diabolical schemes. While described in terms of a *physical suit of armor*, *the components of the spiritual armor are specifically designed to have power in the spiritual realm* (Eph. 6:13-17). Their nature, therefore, is astonishingly different from the weapons we use for fighting physical battles (2 Cor. 10:3-4).

Two of the pieces of armor, the helmet and the sword, are given to us freely by God. In both of these instances we are told to “take” these items. The word used here means to “receive” or to “accept.” Acquiring the other pieces requires us to develop the particular character trait involved. Our active participation in this is indicated by the words translated as “put on,” “take up,” and “having done everything” or, more literally, “having worked thoroughly.”

A child never learns the skills that will enable him to succeed in life if his parents do everything for him. Good parents will provide the teaching and example, which give him a firm foundation on which to build, but the child has to put forth his own effort to develop the skills he will need to handle the things that he will encounter in the world. This doesn't mean, however, that the parents will not be available to come to the assistance of even an adult child in times of crisis.

This is exactly how God has chosen to work in regard to our spiritual protection. He provides the vital foundation of salvation and gives us divine input when we are in the midst of battle through the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God. Our protection in the battle is primarily dependent, however, upon the extent to which we have developed and are walking in the godly traits of truth, righteousness, peace, and faith. This is definitely an area of life in which godliness truly is of great gain (1 Tim. 6:6).

We cannot begin to be protected from the enemy, however, until we have first received the vital helmet of salvation, which identifies us as children of God. Without this, we are totally at the mercy of any demonic or higher-level attack coming against us (Acts 19:14-16).

Strategically, our salvation aligns us with Jesus Christ and His heavenly position of authority over every level of evil spiritual beings (Eph. 1:19-21; 2:4-6). While Jesus, as part of the eternal Godhead, has always had this authority, He suffered the agonies of the Cross so that we could share the benefits of His preeminence over this realm as well. Through His death He paid the full penalty of our sins and rendered the enemy powerless to hold us in bondage any longer, sealing His victory by rising from the dead and ascending to the right hand of the Father, where the entire realm of spiritual beings was put under His feet. In this position of ultimate authority, He was then given to be Head of the Church, making His authority over darkness available to all who are within it (Eph. 1:19-23; Col. 1:13-14; 2:13-15; Heb. 2:14-15).

All we have to do is to believe that He did this for us and to ask Him to apply His awesome work on the Cross as payment for *our* sins (John 3:16; Rom. 10:9-10; Eph. 2:8-9). Once we do this, the helmet of salvation is placed on our heads. This not only secures our eternal destiny in heaven but also assures us that Satan can never render a fatal blow to take us back under his dominion (John 10:27-29; Col. 1:13).